



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 9, 2009

CONTACT: Linda Rapattoni
916-319-2041

Bill by Assemblywoman Julia Brownley Helps Stabilize Education for Foster Youth

SACRAMENTO—Assemblywoman Julia Brownley, D-Santa Monica, chairwoman of the Assembly Education Committee, today announced she has introduced a bill to help foster children remain at the school where they started their education even if they move outside the neighborhood.

“Students develop important relationships with their teachers and classmates that can influence their career choices and social relationships as adults,” said Assemblywoman Brownley. “Foster children need a stable learning environment to take advantage of opportunities to live the American dream. AB 1067 will help them obtain that stability.”

AB 1067 seeks to remove transportation barriers that make it hard for youth to continue attending their neighborhood school after being placed in foster care, or placed with a family that lives outside the community. Foster children often experience academic setbacks when they are forced to change schools when placed with a family in another neighborhood.

A 2003 state law (AB 490) allows foster children to remain at their school for the duration of the school year if it is in their best interest. But, transportation costs are interfering with implementation of the law.

AB 1067 will remove this barrier by providing California with the eligibility it needs to obtain federal funding available through the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act for school transportation costs of foster children.

###